

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 15, 2009. Claims 55, 57, 58, 79, 81 and 82 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and Claims 91 to 93 have been added. Claims 33, 35, 36, 83 and 88 to 93 are pending in the application, of which Claims 88 to 90 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 79, 81 to 83 and 90 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action alleged that the Specification includes transmission channels in the definition of computer readable media. In response, the Specification has been amended so as to exclude transmission channels from the definition of computer readable storage media.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 33, 35, 36, 83 and 88 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for allegedly not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that the claims recite process steps without being tied to a computer. Accordingly, Claim 88 has been amended to recite steps performed using a computer. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 33, 35, 36, 55, 57, 58, 79, 81, 82, 83, 88, 89 and 90 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,473,198 (Matama) in view of NPL document titled, "Multi-Search of Video Segments Indexed by Time-Aligned Annotations of Video Content" (Codan). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The claims herein generally concern processing an input sequence of digital images based upon classifications of shot types of each digital image. In particular, each digital image of the input sequence is classified by analyzing the digital image to detect if a human face is present, determining a relative size of the detected face with respect to a size of the image, and classifying the digital image shot type based on the relative size of the detected face with respect to the image. A part of the input sequence corresponding to the digital image having a shot type of close-up is replayed at a slower speed than other shot types.

By virtue of the foregoing, a lingering view of close-up shots is provided.

Applicant submits that the applied references, alone or in any permissible combination, are not seen to disclose or to suggest the foregoing arrangement, particularly the notion of replaying a part of the input sequence corresponding to the digital image having a shot type of close-up at a slower speed than other shot types.

Matama is seen to disclose setting image processing conditions that are optimal for a scene of a picture of interest. In particular, in a case where a specified image portion is a face of a person and the image is a close-up scene of the person, image processing is set so as to provide a softer tone and a less intense sharpness than in the usual case of image processing.

However, Matama is believed to be silent on replaying a part of an input sequence corresponding to a digital image having a shot type of close-up at a slower speed than other shot types.

Coden is seen to disclose a video content management system that enables the efficient indexing, storing, searching and browsing of video segments defined by

annotation of video content attributes. The annotation values represent the durations of independently indexed and potentially overlapping attributes of the video content, such as camera motion, shot distance, face size, and face count.

However, Coden is believed to be silent on replaying a part of an input sequence corresponding to a digital image having a shot type of close-up at a slower speed than other shot types

Therefore, Matama and Coden, alone or in any permissible combination, are not seen to disclose or to suggest the notion of replaying a part of the input sequence corresponding to the digital image having a shot type of close-up at a slower speed than other shot types.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 88, 89 and 90, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to recite subject matter that would not have been obvious from the applied art, and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due. However, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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